



Currency

The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency being brought into South Africa by Foreign visitors. Currently a maximum of R20,000 per person per day may be cashed. Unlimited daily spend allowed on credit cards.

Banks and Foreign Exchange

Banks are open 09h00 to 15h00 Monday through Friday and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Major national banks are available in most large towns, as are automatic teller machines (ATM's). International banks have branches in the major cities. Thomas Cook and American Express foreign exchange offices are available in the major cities.

Credit cards

MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted with some restrictions in small towns and rural areas. Diners Card and American Express have some limitations, especially when paying at restaurants.

Customs allowances

400 cigarettes, 250 grams of tobacco, 50 cigars.
1 litre of spirits, 1.5 litres of wine, 50 ml of perfume, 250 ml of toilet water.
Gifts souvenirs and any other goods to the value of R500 are permitted.

Duty free

Shops at Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban Airports. No duty free available to guests flying from Johannesburg to Botswana or Namibia

220/230 volts AC, 50 cycles, except in Pretoria where the current is 250 volts AC.

Electrical sockets in the Republic of South Africa are Type M (SABS-1661). If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all types.

Driving

Any valid driver's license is accepted in South Africa, provided it bears the photograph and signature of the holder and is printed in English. South Africa has an excellent road network. Driving is on the left. Road sign distances and speed limits are in kilometers. Wearing of seat belts is compulsory.

Health considerations

South Africa boasts excellent medical facilities. All medical treatment must be paid for, so clients need to carry medical insurance. Swimming in rivers, lakes and dams in the eastern and northern regions should be avoided as the bilharzia parasite may be present in the water. Bottled water is available throughout South Africa.

Safety tips

South Africa is a safe place for international tourists. However, it is sensible to take normal precautions while travelling. Be observant and do not draw attention to yourself by flaunting an expensive camera, jewelry, or large amounts of cash. Deposit valuables in the hotel's safety deposit box. Do not leave your baggage or hotel guest key unattended. Speak to the hotel concierge about, any excursion you may like to undertake, reliable taxi services and routes to take. Do not walk alone in the streets after dark and when returning to your hotel late in the evening, use the main entrance. Lock your car doors and keep personal items and luggage in the trunk, rather than on the seat of the car. If travelling in a self-drive vehicle, plan your route in advance and use maps. Park in well-lit areas and do not pick up strangers.

Language

South Africa has 11 official languages. English is the language of administration and is widely spoken. Others are Afrikaans, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu.

Telephone

The international code for South Africa is 27, which should be preceded by the international prefix if calling from abroad.

Public telephones are either coin or card operated. Phone cards can be purchased at certain stores, post offices and airports.

Time difference

South Africa is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. There are no regional time zones within the country. Standard time in South Africa is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard (winter) time.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT @ 15 % is included in the price of most items and services.

VAT can be claimed back on goods priced over R250 at the airport of departure, various harbors and custom offices. The original tax invoice, the VAT refund control sheet, client's passport and the purchased item are required.

Travelers **must obtain** an Export Declaration Form before leaving South Africa.

These are available from the VAT offices at Johannesburg International Airport, Cape Town International Airport or V&A Waterfront.

As the items have not been inspected, travelers must take their items with the export declaration forms to customs in their country of residence and have the items declared.

Customs in their home country will give an endorsement on the items.

- Complete any documentation you receive from South African VAT office and your Customs office in your country of residence.
- Complete the postal envelope received from South African VAT office.
- Attach copy of your passport
- Mail all forms back to Cape Town or Johannesburg.

The refund takes 6 - 8 weeks (depends on how much it is).

Once the South Africa VAT office receives the forms, they send it to South African Revenue Services for approval. This is then forwarded to the bank for conversion.

A foreign exchange draft is then sent by the South African VAT office to traveler.

If you prefer them to credit your credit card, stipulate this on the form.

TRANS AFRICA SAFARIS IS UNABLE TO EXPIDITE VAT REFUNDS. IT IS OUT OF OUR HANDS.

- Wild About Cape Town – Duncan Butchart
- This is South Africa – Peter Borchert
- Mandela, The End of an Era – Charlene Smith
- Scramble for Africa – Thomas Pakenham
- Don't Run, Whatever You Do: My Adventures as a Safari Guide - Peter Allison
- Jock of the Bushveld - Sir Percy Fitzpatrick
- Thabo Mbeki, Life and Times – Adrian Hadland
- Cry the Beloved Country - Alan Paton
- The Story of an African Farm - Olive Schreiner
- Something Out There - Nadime Gordimer
- The Boer War - Thomas Pakenham
- 21st Century Megatrends – Clem Sunter
- South Africa in the 20th Century - Peter Joyce
- Illustrated History of South Africa - Reader's Digest
- The Spirit of District Six - Cloete Breytenbach
- The Story of Hottentots Holland - Peggy Heap
- African Renaissance - Peter Magubane (Black culture)
- Vanishing Cultures of South Africa – Peter Magubane
- Tavern of the Sea - T V Bulpin
- Rage – Wilbur Smith
- The Long Walk to Freedom, Autobiography of Nelson Mandela
- A Century of Anglo Boer War Stories – Chris van der Merwe / Michael Rice
- A Tourist Guide to the Anglo Boer War (1899- 1902) – Tony Westby-Nunn



South Africa is famous for its sunshine, but the country has many different climates! The Mediterranean Western Cape, the sub-tropical and arid Eastern Cape and the sub-tropical Kruger region and Johannesburg. They all have hot summers (December to March), with the coldest weather occurring in July and August. Summer in the northern part of the country is characterized by hot, sunny weather, often with afternoon thunderstorms that clear quickly.

The Western Cape has a winter rainfall with quite a few days of cloudy, rainy weather.

The Kruger area has a summer rainfall and offers fantastic winter weather, with sunny, warmish days and virtually no wind or rain.

Johannesburg lies at an altitude of 1 694 metres (5 560 feet), keeping the average summer temperatures below 30°C (86°F).

Winter (June to August)

June and July are the wettest and coldest months in the Western Cape.

In Johannesburg and the Kruger, the days are dry with very pleasant daytime temperatures. The evenings and early mornings can be cold.

Spring (September to November)

September is a wonderful in all of South Africa. Spring is a lovely time to visit the country as all regions generally boast lovely, days that are not too hot, and evenings that are not too cold. This is the season that heralds new life – flowers bloom, new growth on trees and vineyards and, in the wild, many animals give birth to their offspring.

Summer (December to February)

This is peak season for the Cape Town and Winelands with lovely warm and dry days. The 'Cape Doctor' (south-easter) can blow during this period. Johannesburg and Kruger get rain during these months. February is usually the hottest month of the year.

Autumn (March to May)

Temperatures start to drop which makes for a very comfortable time to travel. Autumn is a lovely time to travel in South Africa as all regions generally enjoy mild weather, days are not too hot and evenings not too cold. In the Cape, the rains begin in about May, and in Johannesburg and Kruger, the rains cease and by May the countryside is starting dry out with the vegetation turning brown.

Temperature (average lows & highs)

JNB = Johannesburg - KNP = Kruger National Park - CPT = Cape Town

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
JNB	°C	15/26	14/25	13/24	11/22	8/19	5/16	9/22	12/24	13/25	12/24	13/25	14/25
	°F	52/86	51/84	47/82	41/78	35/73	29/69	29/70	31/76	35/83	41/85	45/85	49/86

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
KNP	°C	21/33	21/33	19/32	16/30	10/28	6/26	6/26	9/28	13/30	16/31	18/31	20/33
	°F	70/91	70/91	66/90	60/86	50/82	42/79	42/79	48/82	55/86	60/87	64/87	68/91

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CPT	°C	16/26	15/26	14/25	12/23	10/20	8/18	7/17	7/18	8/19	10/21	13/24	15/25
	°F	60/82	60/84	57/80	53/77	49/71	45/77	43/65	46/77	47/69	51/74	55/76	59/80

Rainfall (average lows & highs)

JNB = Johannesburg - KNP = Kruger National Park - CPT = Cape Town

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
JNB	mm	125	94	90	54	13	9	4	6	27	7	11	103
	inches	5.1	3.9	3.7	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.3	0.5	4.2

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
KNP	mm	96	92	72	35	14	8	7	6	24	35	75	86
	inches	3.7	3.7	2.8	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.9	1.3	2.9	3.3

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CPT	mm	14	16	21	41	68	93	83	77	41	3	1	17
	inches	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.7	2.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.7